

EP31 Revelation 2 verses 12-17 (P1)

The Church at Pergamum

Overall Theme: Wait for Me—I Will Satisfy!

Revelation 2:12-17

And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: "The One who is now having the sharp two-edged sword now says this: 'I know where you now dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you now hold fast **My** name and did not choose to deny **My** faith even in the days of Antipas, **My** witness, **My** faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan now dwells. But I now have a few things against you because you now have there some who are now holding the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. So, you also now have some who in the same way are now holding the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Therefore repent; or else I will choose to now come to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth. He who is now having an ear, let him hear what the Spirit now says to the churches. To him who is now overcoming, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who is now receiving it.'

Historical Setting

Pergamum lies northeast of Smyrna and is a bit inland, well positioned near a major river which kept the area lush, and the region was considered even more beautiful than that of Smyrna. Pergamum was thought of as the capital of Roman Asia and was a center of culture, arts, medicine, and education. It was eventually surpassed in size and glory by Ephesus, but it never lost its role as the capital of Roman Asia.

It boasted of a library with 200,000 scrolls, second only to the library of Alexandria in Egypt. Imagine, they had no copy machines and no word processors, and everything was done by hand. It's quite remarkable. And it was here in Pergamum that parchment was invented. Egypt was so concerned that this library was going to surpass theirs in size and glory, that they limited the export of papyrus to bring a halt to Pergamum's document production. And since necessity is the mother of all inventions, those in Pergamum came up with their own solution and invented a new form of writing material, parchment.

Parchment was made from animal skins. If you have ever heard someone comment about a graduate getting their sheepskin (their diploma), the phrase goes all the way back to Pergamum. However, eventually, Egypt won the library competition. The Pergamum library was ported off to Alexandria by the Roman ruler Marc Anthony as a present for Cleopatra.

Like the other cities, Pergamum was extremely religious and had temples to all sorts of Gods including two temples to Dionysus (one of which is the biggest of its type in the Greek world), and temples to Athena

(who was the patron goddess of this city), Demeter, Asclepius, Hera, Meter, Zeus, a small temple near the gymnasium, a Great Altar which dwarfed all the other temples, and the central sanctuary of the Imperial cult which was erected in 29 B.C.

However, of all the buildings in Pergamum, maybe even of all the buildings of the high Hellenistic period, the Great Altar was the most splendid of them all. It was originally designed as a funerary monument for King Maussolus in the 4th century. However, in practice it was a place of sacrifice as it is said that the priests of the altar would continually offer up burnt sacrifices. Little did they know, however, that in addition to all the temples to these so-called “gods”, this city also housed the throne of Satan.

Revelation 2:12-13

And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: “The One who is now having the sharp two-edged sword now says this: ‘I know where you now dwell, where Satan’s throne now is; and you hold fast **My** name and did not deny **My** faith even in the days of Antipas, **My** witness, **My** faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan now dwells.

Two-Edged Sword

Jesus starts off by drawing on the imagery from the glorified Son of Man (**1:16**) as the one who is now having the sharp two-edged sword which proceeds from his mouth.¹ We are to understand this imagery to mean that His words cut like a sword and are able to pierce as far as the division between the soul and the spirit, as well as between the thoughts and intentions of the heart.² Like a sword, His words can have a violent impact in our lives.

I Know Where You Dwell

“*I know where you dwell.*” It is generally unnerving to have someone show up, out of the blue, and tell you that they know where you live. It tends to leave one a bit paranoid. But this comment is intended to provide comfort. Jesus thoroughly understands the difficulties of living where Satan’s throne is set, thus, these are words of compassion and empathy and speak not just to the location of their domicile, but to the condition, the culture, and the pressures of dwelling in that city.

And with “*know*” being rendered in the *perfect* tense, He has always known. Their situation is not new to Him; He is just now addressing it. Again, this is intended to bring us comfort, for our God is always appraised of our situation; nothing is ever lost on Him.

Satan’s Throne

Yet, this also implies it is intentional that these believers live where Satan’s throne resides. Jesus decided way in the past that they would be a witness in the midst of absolute darkness, and He always knew the pressure that would ensue.

¹ “has” is rendered in the *present active participle*

² **Hebrews 4:12**

Likewise, Jesus knows where we live, He understands our life, and He understands the crazy dynamic in the unseen realms that we encounter day-in-and-day-out. And He knows it perfectly; therefore, when He speaks to us, we can be assured that His words are not random nor misplaced but are perfectly in context with our immediate surroundings (both seen and unseen). After all, **Yahweh Raah** and **Yahweh Adonai** have us exactly where He wants us to be.

Satan is referred to in the Bible as the ruler of this world and the God of this world;³ therefore, it makes sense that he would literally have a throne in this world. But to find oneself living in the city where Satan chose to set his throne is simply terrifying. However, finding out this information must have helped make practical sense of a lot of things in their lives. It would have been what we would call an “Aha moment” giving rhyme and reason to all the craziness in their lives.

The Greek word translated “*dwell*” means to house permanently, and it is rendered in the *present active indicative*. So, we can understand this to be Satan’s “home” region or base of operations. And Jesus mentions this 2x to ensure that we pay attention and do not just skip over, trivialize, or allegorize this statement. And with all the idolatry centered in the city, this should not come as a surprise. Each of the gods they worshiped were just demonic beings in disguise, part of Satan’s inner circle of leadership.⁴

Many have speculated whether this reference to Satan’s throne refers to Zeus’ altar, the Great Altar, or one of the altars of the Imperial cult. There is nothing in the archaeology, or the text, which would give us any clue as to how to determine whether it was even a reference to these physical temples or is just a reference to a spiritual throne. But either way, with Satan personally present in this city, these believers had to face unbelievable spiritual pressure.

Every one of us has experienced the oppression that comes along with the presence of demonic forces; but the oppression that would result if Satan himself decided to make his home in our little town and be the personal instrument of that oppression, would be beyond extreme. However, if that were to happen, God would always show Himself to be more than enough to handle each-and-every struggle, and through Him, we could hold fast, just like those in Pergamum.

Our Battle is Spiritual

This should also remind us that our battle in this life is spiritual. Our battle is not against flesh and blood (people are just the pass-through vehicle, so to speak, the agents which the spiritual forces work through), but our fight is against principalities, powers, and spiritual forces of darkness in the unseen world.⁵ We must therefore be careful not to become consumed with this life, there is so much more going on than meets the eye.

To Hold Fast His Name

What does Jesus mean when He says, “*and you now hold fast My name*”? We call ourselves Christians, which is a description which identifies us with Christ and with a system of beliefs. However, to identify as a “Christian” is a far different thing than to “*now hold fast*” to His name. We have learned that His name is “**I AM**” and His memorial name which He has given to all generations is “**Yahweh**,”—the one who is

³ John 14:30, 2 Corinthians 4:4

⁴ 1 Corinthians 10:20

⁵ Ephesians 6:12

sufficient for all things, all the time. Whatever the problem, He is the answer, and there is no other.

With that said, many people who identify as a Christian would struggle with answering whether they know Him by name, personally, experientially, such that His name has become their rock, their security, and their HOPE.

But with **Yahweh**, things are always personal. Therefore, to hold to His name is to now be beholding the Son for who He is (**Yahweh**) (**Step 1**) and to now be believing in Him or betting one's life on His name (**Step 2**).⁶ It means to personally come to know **Yahweh** (through experience) as the Lord our God Almighty, as our personal banner and our rallying place, our Shepherd, our Healer, our Presence of God, our Righteousness, our Sanctification, our Jealous Lover, our Provision, our Commander of Heaven's Armies, our Peace, and our Freedom.⁷

HIS NAME IS TO BE THE FILTER THROUGH WHICH WE PASS ALL THINGS: ALL THOUGHTS, EMOTIONS, EXPERIENCES, AND SO ON. HE WANTS US TO KNOW HIM BY HIS NAME AND TO HOLD FAST TO HIS NAME BY LIVING DESPERATELY, NEEDY FOR HIM IN ALL THINGS ALL OF THE TIME.

I am confident that Antipas did not just wake up one day with the sudden strength to be martyred; rather, like the others, he had learned how to hold fast to **Yahweh** as His **I AM**. Like those in Smyrna, Antipas and these believers were likely tested and tried as **Yahweh** built their endurance and HOPE, such that when the time came, they were able to hold fast to His name. And, by the way, that is not a big contextual jump, remember, they lived in the city where Satan had his throne and many of his inner circle of leaders were worshiped as gods.

THE MORE THE ENEMY IS PRESENT AND ACTIVE IN OUR LIVES, THE MORE WE ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE HOW WE WILL LIVE: LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN, DEPENDENT UPON YAHWEH, OR LIKE THE NICOLAITANS DEPENDENT UPON OUR OWN SPIRITUALITY—OUR OWN GOODNESS.

We should never be afraid of the presence of the enemy in our lives. If he is there, then **Yahweh Adonai** and **Yahweh Raah** have reasons for our dwelling together. Remember, the enemy is just a tool in the hands of **Yahweh Sabaoth** to accomplish greater purposes in our lives than we could ever imagine.

My Martyr – My Faithful One

We do not know much about Antipas except that he was apparently a bishop in the church who was martyred by being fried alive in a bronze container, much like the way the emperor tried to fry John in a

⁶ *John 6:40*. Note: “behold” and “believe” are rendered in the *present active participle*

⁷ **Yahweh Adonai, Yahweh Nisi, Yahweh Raah, Yahweh Rapha, Yahweh Shammah, Yahweh Tsidkenu, Yahweh Mekoddishkem, Yahweh Qana, Yahweh Jireh, Yahweh Sabaoth, Yahweh Shalom, Yahweh Yasha.**

wok in Ephesus. Technically, the name “Antipas” name means “against father” (*anti*—against and *pater*—father). Perhaps this speaks of his disdain for the father of this world, against whom he stood.

Antipas is referred by Jesus as “**My** witness” or literally in the Greek “**My** martyr”—one who bears witness by his/her death. What is notable is that Jesus referred to him as “**My**” martyr, as He used a personal pronoun, and as “**My**” faithful one. There is no question that Antipas belonged to Jesus—He was **Yahweh’s** personal possession. Antipas was not just faithful, but **Yahweh’s** faithful one, just like he was **Yahweh’s** martyr or witness.⁸

The use of the personal pronoun makes it clear that although Antipas was slain among those, where Satan had made his abode, God was carefully overseeing all matters pertaining to His personal possession. Those in Pergamum may have slain him, and the evil one may have inspired their violence, but all along it was **Yahweh’s** loving hand providing a faithful witness—a light to the world of darkness. Antipas was **Yahweh’s** martyr and **Yahweh’s** faithful one and the evil ones and those who slain him were just the agents which **Yahweh** used to carry out His will in Antipas’ life.

In a similar way that in Smyrna the death of believers brought about a sweet fragrance, in Pergamum, the death of Antipas brought about a light (or a witness) in the darkness.

No Denial

Not only do these believers in Pergamum **now** hold fast to Jesus’ name (**Yahweh**),⁹ Jesus said they did not choose to deny “**My** faith” (again utilizing a personal pronoun).¹⁰ He did not say that they did not choose to deny “their” faith. In effect He is claiming that the faith which enabled them to now hold fast to Jesus’ name was the faith that He gave to them and the faith that He sustained. It was His faith.

As with all things in our lives, **Yahweh** is the source—even of our faith. As our **I AM**, He is the sole provider of our faith; in fact, He has given to every person a measure of faith,¹¹ though very few recognize it as **His** faith.¹² The point is that everyone has been given the ability to choose to believe in Him.

**OVER-AND-OVER, IN BLATANT AND VERY SUBTLE WAYS, WE ARE REMINDED THAT
JESUS IS OUR ENTIRE SUFFICIENCY—HE EVEN PROVIDES OUR FAITH!**

This truth also eliminates the excuse we make for ourselves when we say: “This life is too difficult; God asks too much; we are too weak; we are not able; and we cannot meet His expectations.” These excuses sound reasonable, after all God does not ask just for a part of us, but He wants it all, every part of our being. And we are too weak, we are not able, and we can never meet His expectations, but He can. He can always meet His own expectations. **That is why He gives us His faith, so that, if we let Him, He will be the One in-and-through our lives that we could never be; and, more importantly, never have to be!**

⁸ **1 Peter 2:9**

⁹ Rendered in the *present active indicative*

¹⁰ “deny” is rendered in the *aorist middle indicative*

¹¹ **Romans 12:3**

¹² See **Romans 11:36**, all things are from Him, by Him (or through Him), and to Him.

That is the beauty of the Substitution Principle: all of our capabilities for all of His.

His Life in Ours

Jesus said, "... and you *now* hold fast **MY** name, and you did not choose to deny **MY** faith" even in the days of "Antipas, **MY** witness, **MY** faithful one." The phrasing is completely different than what He spoke to those in Ephesus. To those in Ephesus He was clear: "I know **your** works, **your** toil, and **your** patient endurance, and how **you** cannot bear with those who are evil ... I know **you** are enduring patiently and ... **you** have not grown weary".¹³ Six times He said "**you**" or "**your**." Their work was the religious work of man captured in the number of man (6); whereas the work at Pergamum flowed from Him in every direction—from the 4-corners of His creative majesty.¹⁴

**WHEN IT COMES TO OUR WORKS,
"YOU" AND "YOUR" NEVER MATCH UP TO HIS "MY."**

The Enemies Strategy

We should be struck by Jesus' reference to the past: "*even in the days of Antipas.*" This implies that perhaps the pressure on this body changed over the years. In those days, the enemies' strategy was hostility and overt aggression; hence, the martyrdom of Antipas. But in their now, I think it was far different. Based on the rest of the letter, it seems the enemy changed his tactics to *Battle Plan B*.

Satan first tried to conquer the believers through force and heavy persecution (*Battle Plan A*). And while that tends to work on many believers, it did not break them, as they were anchored to Jesus and stood strong in His faith. In fact, the persecution just reinforced the faith of these believers. Unbeknownst to the enemy, they were being trained in endurance, and the enemy was just assisting in their training.

These "*Battle Plans*" (both *A* and *B*) are an essential element of our journey to becoming a bondservant of Jesus Christ.

The Big But

Since *Battle Plan A* did not crush the faithfulness of these believers, in his next wave of attack, Satan strategically switched to an alternate plan, a tried and tested plan that more-often-than-not works like a charm, "*Battle Plan B*." And that was to seduce these believers to compromise with the world around them. This leads us to the big "**But**" in this letter.

Revelation 2:14

But I *now* have a few things against you, because you *now* have there some who are *now* holding the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat

¹³ **Revelation 2:2-3**

¹⁴ 4 is the biblical number denoting God's creation.

things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.

The Apostasy of Balaam

A Few Things Against You

Jesus had a few things against them. There are some who now and continually hold to the teaching of Balaam and the Nicolaitans.¹⁵ As we learned in **Jude**, **Balaam** was motivated by greed—the lust of eyes—the desire for all the goodness that this life can bring. For Balaam, it was all about the money, and his means to wealth was the twisted advice (or instruction) which he gave to King Balak. This advice resulted in the spiritual and moral compromise of the Jews.

And it is this example of **Balaam** that gives us our framework for understanding the message to those in Pergamum. The story of Balaam confines our understanding of the rest of the text.

During the time of the exodus,¹⁶ Balaam (a prophet of God) was hired by King Balak, a Midianite, to curse the Israelites when they were coming out of Egypt. But on his way to meet King Balak, the Angel of **Yahweh** (the Angel of the Lord) stood in his way, **sword in His hand**, ready to strike Balaam down if he did not thoroughly obey **Yahweh's** instructions. And, just so you know, that was eventually Balaam's fate; he literally died by the sword.¹⁷ This makes a fascinating connection to the picture of Jesus being the one who is now having the **sharp two-edged sword**.

Since the sword is a symbol of truth and truth is the symbol of the word of God, Balaam, as a prophet of God, was only able to speak the truth over Israel; therefore, no matter how much he wanted to curse them, God would not allow it.¹⁸ Therefore, this clever and greedy man put *Battle Plan B* into effect—if you can't beat them by force or persecution (which seems to always be *Battle Plan A*), then you capture them with seduction.

Clearly as a gifted seer, Balaam could hear from more than just God. His spiritual ears were attuned to the spiritual realms, and therefore he likely received *Battle Plan B* from the deceiver. Henceforth, Balaam told King Balak that he did not have to worry about cursing Israel, for if he played his cards right, Israel would curse themselves and God, being righteous, would have to judge His own people.¹⁹ And this is exactly what happened.

Battle Plan B required King Balak to send beautiful young women into the camp of the Israelites who would then seduce the Israelite men. Keep in mind, the Israelites had been wondering in the wilderness for quite some time and were very vulnerable to this type of seduction.

Now it must be stated that this was not a one-time event where these women ventured into the camp and had crazy sex one night. Rather, the narrative implies that these women came in and built a relationship with these men who had been wondering the desert, and through their sensuality (and sexuality) over-time introduced these men to the gods of their land. They used sensuality and sex as bait

¹⁵ “hold” is rendered in the *present active participle*

¹⁶ **Numbers 22-25, 31**

¹⁷ **Numbers 31:8; Joshua 13:22**

¹⁸ **Numbers 22:35; 24:10-13**

¹⁹ **Numbers 31:16**

to introduce their gods to the Israelites; and, before long, the men started to join these Moabite women in idolatrous worship, specifically in the worship of Baal of Peor (the chief Moabite god).

According to the **Code**, immoral sexuality is used as a substitute phrase for idolatry. Spiritually speaking with the language of the **Code**, they engaged in adulterous sexual affairs when they began to worship other so-called Gods.²⁰ In effect, they cheated on **Yahweh**, the one to whom they had devoted themselves.

They sacrificed to the Moabite gods, they ate the meat sacrificed to these idols; they bowed down to these gods; and they played the spiritual harlot with the daughters of Moab. **Yahweh**, whose name is jealous, was furious with Israel.²¹ As a result, Moses took all those men who joined themselves to Baal of Peor and executed them to avert the wrath of God on the people at large.²²

The Sword

Please notice the parallels. To avert judgment upon the entire community, the sword of Moses was used against those who were guilty (those who joined themselves to Baal of Peor). This is exactly what Jesus said would happen to those at Pergamum. If they did not repent of their immorality, He would war against the offenders with the sword of his mouth, while at the same time preserving the innocent (something He did not promise to those in Ephesus).

Battle Plan B

Using the background of **Balaam**, as our framework for understanding this message, clearly there must have been those in the church of Pergamum whose leadership and teaching led to moral and spiritual compromise. By the way, moral compromise inevitably leads to some sort of spiritual compromise and vice versa; they tend to go together, and they work interchangeably.

We are not entirely sure what was happening, but given the illustration of **Balaam**, most likely their issues were rooted in **relationships**—the kind that they should not have ever been involved with in the first place. These were the kind of unauthorized relationships that became a *stumbling block* to the true believer.

Imagine being a single Christian in a city like Pergamum (a city that is riddled with idolatry), where practically everyone else has some special connection that binds them emotionally, physically, and spiritually in relationship, and you are simply alone. This is a very painful and isolated experience; after all, everyone longs for relationship, for belonging, and for intimacy, not just with their community at large, but with a special someone with whom to share life and love.

This situation likely left many believers, both men and women, extremely vulnerable to compromise (much like the Israelite men wondering in the wilderness). Hence, *Battle Plan B* became an effective strategy of the enemy.

As with the story of Balaam, there were probably those who had some reputation within the “church,” leaders or authorities, who felt bad for all the lonely and single people in the fellowship and encouraged

²⁰ See **Numbers 25:1-3**

²¹ **Yahweh Qanna**

²² **Numbers 25:4-5**

them to date and pursue relationships, and in effect to be like everyone else, so long as they date someone who is a Christian.

In effect, they put a *stumbling block* before these believers, just like Balaam did before the sons of Israel. Instead of encouraging them to wait on **Yahweh Adonai** and **Yahweh Raah** to provide relationship in His timing, they gave them reasons they could take what they needed now.

From the perspective of the “behind-the-scenes” demonic activity, it probably just took a little whispering in the night to nudge those who were lonely and desperate to form a relationship with those who were “Christian” in name only. And from there it was probably an easy slide into immorality, as that is just a natural and common way to bind these relationships in intimacy and commitment. And from there, it is a fast slide towards apostasy. Woah, that might seem to be an extreme statement, but let’s stick with the storyline.

I have used the illustration of those who were “Christian in name only,” as opposed to those in the city of Pergamum who were blatant idolators, because the commendation which Jesus gave the church in terms of their holding to **His** name and **His** faith, makes it unlikely that these people were instructed to engage in just any relationship. That would have been too obvious of a “compromise.” They needed to be “Christian.”

Besides, there are people, even today, who are now holding to the teaching of Balaam, and few today would encourage blatant idolatry; their exhortations are always more subtle. The temptation was more likely rooted in a compromise that would be acceptable within the church.

One Thing Leads to the Other

It is important to remember that with the Spirit of God, nothing is accidental, including the order of how He mentions things. Jesus first mentions their eating things sacrificed to idols and second their committing acts of immorality. In effect, one thing leads to the other. And with both “eat” and “*commit acts of immorality*” being rendered in the *aorist* tense, it speaks overall of their lifestyle, and not just a one-time indulgence. Their compromise, over time, defined their life.

Let’s consider this process through the lens of the spiritual—how Jesus sees things.

Eating Things Sacrificed to Idols

In the days of temples and idol worship, eating things sacrificed to idols was a big deal because of what it symbolized. A family would bring their sacrifice to the priest, and once the priest offered the meat to an idol, the priest would take some of that meat for his own meal, and the remainder would be returned to the family (or sold in a market) and the family (who either sacrificed or purchased the meat) would sit down and enjoy a meal together.

This practice pictured a relational and spiritual fellowship, a oneness, between the demonic spirit, the priesthood, and the family. They all shared in the same meal, and it created a bond—a spiritual bond—a demonic bond—that was not easily broken. This is the reason that even though a believer is free to eat whatever he/she wants, this practice crossed over into the realm of spiritual adultery, and that was dangerous.²³ Hence, even though we are free in Christ, not everything that is lawful for us is profitable

²³ **1 Corinthians 10:14-22**

for our lives.²⁴

The whole act was remarkably similar in practice and meaning to believers taking communion. When we take communion, we join ourselves in fellowship and intimacy with Christ, who is our sacrifice represented by the bread and the blood, with the Father who freely offered up His one and only Son to be broken on the cross for us, and with the Spirit who makes it all possible for us to even want God. It is a powerful picture and one which we must never take for granted.

Eating a sacrificial meal paints the picture of our oneness in the sense that each participant has willingly given themselves to share this intimate meal with others. And when we take it together as a body, we proclaim our oneness or our fellowship together.

Therefore, understood through this imagery, when we take from a person in relationship (a person that God has not appointed for us) to meet our needs, whether the taking is emotional, psychological, or physical, we begin to eat things sacrificed to idols. And that meal can be delicious and ever so satisfying.

However, in doing so, we join ourselves in deep intimate fellowship and oneness with that person, and we create a physical, emotional, and spiritual bond that extends beyond just the relationship, and deep into the demonic realms. Being forged in the spiritual realms, this is a relational bond that is not easily broken.

Acts of Immorality

As we eat the things sacrificed to idols, the next step is to “*commit immorality*”. Once a person gives themselves to another in deep desirous intimacy, and that other person becomes their answer, their provision, their satisfaction, the one with whom they cannot live without, from a spiritual perspective, they have started to “*commit immorality*”. They have looked to this person to be their provision, their sustenance, and to satisfy their cravings, desires, and lusts, instead of looking to their **I AM** to be their provision and sustenance. They have given another person a place of preeminence in their soul—a place that only God is to possess.

Yahweh Substitute

Thus, when we give ourselves in relationship to someone that God has not established for us, in effect that person becomes our Dionysus, Athena, Demeter, Asclepius, Hera, Meter, Zeus, or our Baal of Peor. That special person and that special relationship becomes our substitute for **Yahweh**. They become a pathway to obtain spiritual and practical help and to enjoy spiritual and physical intimacy without having to submit to **Yahweh** and without having to wait for **Yahweh** to act on our behalf.

And it is far too easy to use Christian principles, like the fact that God Himself said that “*it is not good for man to be alone*,”²⁵ to justify what we do. But regardless of how we couch things, the issue is one of idolatry and who it is that we truly consider to be our **I AM**. And while it is likely that all the single and lonely people of the world have wrestled with this issue, Jesus will be clear that He looks at all of it through the lens of idolatry and immorality—to whom we go to find our meal and satisfaction.

²⁴ See **1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23**

²⁵ **Genesis 2:18**

Waiting on God

Waiting on God to be our source of provision, especially for love and intimacy, is one of the hardest things there is to do. Loneliness of the soul and the body is beyond terrible. Therefore, it is easy to compromise and to seek our own answer under our own religious guidance, instead of waiting on God to provide the person with whom He wants us to be in relationship (if He even wants us to be with someone).

But we will stop right here and pick up with this issue of waiting on God in our next Podcast.